

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

creeks and estuaries and consists of Mud-Skipper, Fish, Prawn, Crab, Eel and other marine and aquatic animal life, and in the vicinity of fishermen. Although, feeding of nestlings takes place at day and night, much depends upon tidal timings. The heronry as

mentioned by other writers is fairly silent. Crows are a scourge to nesting birds and yet the parents alternately guard their eggs and nestlings carefully. Predation by raptors is negligible but young that fall to ground are often killed by pariah dogs, cats and jackals.

26 LOTUS COURT,
JAMSHEDJI TATA ROAD,
BOMBAY-400 020,
May 6, 1982.

K. S. DHARMAKUMARSINHJI

10. EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE EGGS OF THE COMMON HOUSE CROW, *CORVUS S. SPLENDENS* VIELL.

On 15th April 1982, I saw a pair of house crows (*Corvus s. splendens*) complete their nest in a copperpod tree in my garden at Kandivli, Salsette, in North Bombay.

- 1. 47.55 x 25 mm.....17 gm
- 2. 44.2 x 26.75 mm.....15.5 gm
- 3. 43.55 x 25 mm.....14.2 gm

For the next two days there appeared to be no activity around the nest but on the 18th April it contained one egg. This appeared extraordinarily large that I took it. Again for two days there was no activity and I thought that the nest was deserted. But on the 21st April morning there was another large egg which I took, to be followed by a third egg on the 22nd April.

Stuart Baker (1932) in NIDIFICATION OF BIRDS OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE (Vol. I, pp. 18) gives the average size of 200 eggs as 37.2 x 27 mm (maxima 44.1 x 27.4 mm and 41.1 x 29.1 mm; minima is 30.4 x 25.4 mm and 32.0 x 23.0 mm).

The eggs obtained by me thus are appreciably larger than those noted earlier and may be worth recording. I am sending the eggs for the Society's collection.

The three eggs measured and weighed as follows :-

MADHURIMA SOCIETY,
M. G. ROAD,
KANDIVLI (WEST),
BOMBAY-400 067,
September 7, 1982.

S. G. MONGA

11. LABORATORY OBSERVATIONS ON THE INCUBATION PERIOD OF THE INDIAN BLACK IBIS *PSEUDIBIS PAPILLOSA* (TEMMINCK)

(With a text-figure)

Ali and Ripley (1968) have mentioned that there is no record of the incubation period

of the Indian black ibis. In the course of our studies on Indian black ibis, we have been